

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1956

11 MAY 1956
Issued by the Government Statistician (Mr. R. J. Little), Perth

2nd May, 1956

This report gives particulars relative to the following items:-

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POPULATION ESTIMATES

Whole State at 31st December, 1955 -

Males - 345,487

Females - 325,263

Persons - 670,750

Metropolitan Area at 31st December, 1955 -

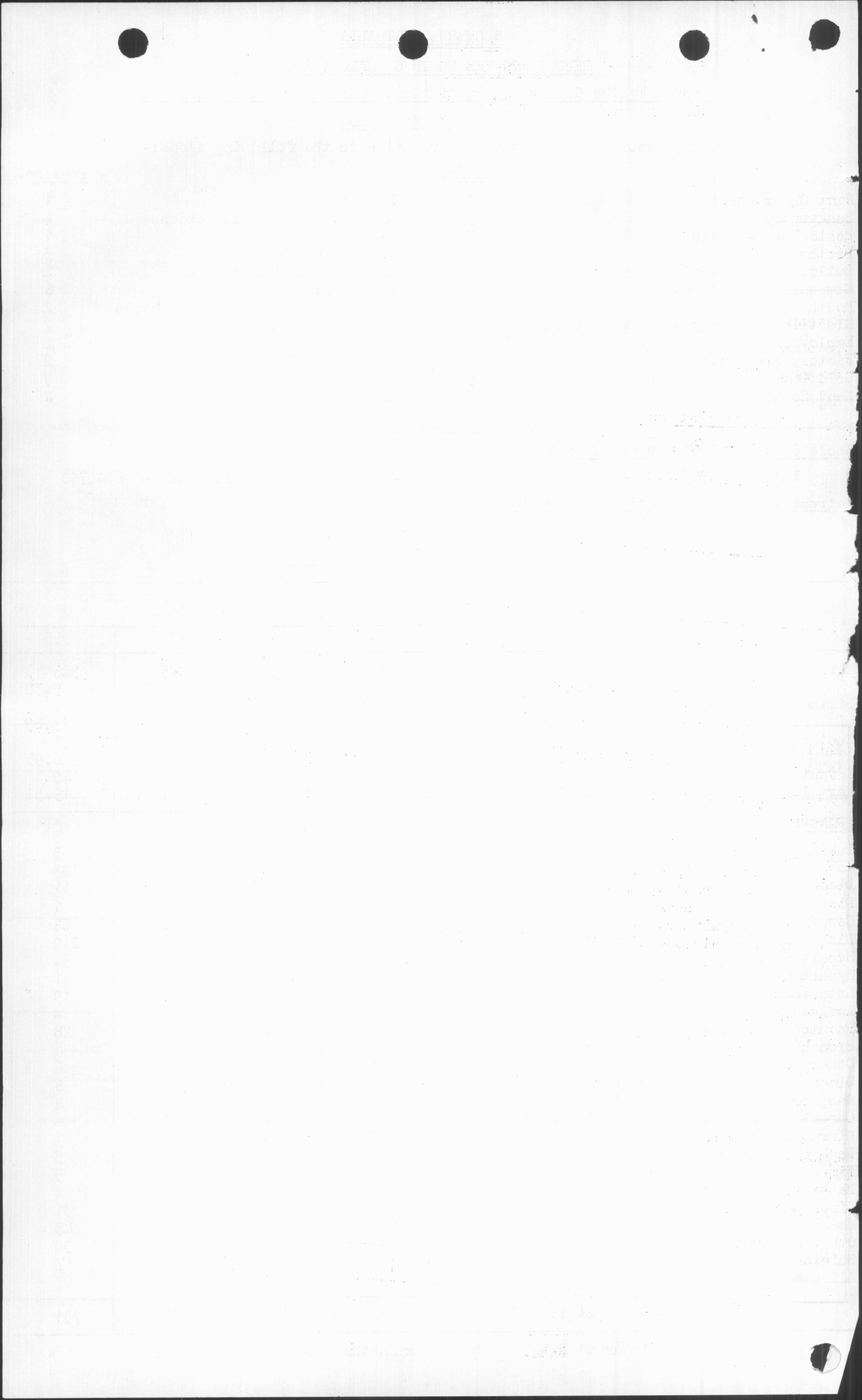
Persons - 365,000

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

	FEBRUARY		Two Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
Marriages - Number	480	479	965	986
* Rate per 1000 of Population	9.00	9.59	8.76	9.38
Births - Number	1,444	1,316	2,784	2,512
* Rate per 1000 of Population	27.08	26.35	25.27	23.89
Deaths - Number	532	392	936	731
* Rate per 1000 of Population	9.98	7.85	8.50	6.95
Infant - Number	38	23	67	49
Mortality * Rate per 1000 Live Births	26.32	17.48	24.07	19.51
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH				
Tuberculosis	3	2	4	5
Malignant neoplasms	64	61	149	103
Diabetes mellitus	14	5	18	11
Diseases of blood, etc.	1	-	1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	77	49	120	84
Diseases of the heart	141	108	246	210
Hypertension with heart disease	13	20	25	34
Hypertensive disease without mention of heart	7	5	12	11
Arteriosclerosis	14	14	25	19
Influenza	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	23	10	32	28
Bronchitis	3	3	5	4
Other respiratory disease	1	4	6	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	3	4	6
Gastro-enteritis and colitis	2	3	4	4
Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis	1	-	1	-
Cirrhosis of the liver	3	-	5	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	7	3	15	5
Disease of the prostate	9	4	10	5
Maternal causes	1	-	2	1
Disease of early infancy	22	17	34	31
Motor Vehicle Accidents	22	27	37	43
Other Accidents	37	17	52	35
Suicide	10	7	21	17
All other causes	54	30	107	67
Total:	532	392	936	731

* Equivalent Annual Rate.

* Deaths under one year.



LAND SETTLEMENT

Land taken up under conditional alienation during the three months ended March, 1956, totalled 262,641 acres, an increase of 88,706 acres on the corresponding period last year. Pastoral, special and miscellaneous leases registered amounted to 2,132,876 acres, an increase of 498,767.

STATE GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Item	MARCH		Nine Months ended MARCH	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Revenue	3,663,791	3,593,930	34,611,646	31,711,957
Revenue per Head of Population	5. 8. 7	5. 10. 2	51. 17. 10	49. 1. 4
Expenditure	4,449,517	3,977,522	38,139,446	33,051,435
Expenditure per Head of Population	6. 11. 10	6. 2. 0	57. 3. 7	51. 2. 9

SAVINGS BANKS

Depositors' Balances at the end of February, 1956, amounted to £55,008,000 or £81.12.3 per head of population as against £52,638,871 or £80.15.5 per head at the end of February, 1955.

BANK CLEARANCES

The average weekly clearance for four weeks ended 28th March, 1956, amounted to £14,393,545 compared with £14,247,093 for the corresponding period last year.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Registrations effected at the Office of Land Titles and Deeds		MARCH		Nine Months ended MARCH	
		1956	1955	1956	1955
Transfers	No.	1,476	1,838	14,181	17,282
	£.	2,410,479	2,983,477	21,019,789	26,326,119
Mortgages	No.	1,035	1,376	9,543	12,795
	£.	1,738,266	2,765,502	19,137,584	24,003,489
Discharges of Mortgages	No.	813	967	7,126	8,563

SALES TAX: SALES OF TAXABLE AND EXEMPT GOODS
AND TAX COLLECTED

Period of Receipt of Returns	Taxable Goods		Sales of Exempt Goods	Tax Collected
	Sales in respect of which Tax is Payable (Net)	Sales in respect of which Tax is NOT Payable (Gross)		
	£.	£.	£.	£.
March, 1956	4,027,747	1,851,757	9,875,018	466,487
March, 1955	4,152,009	2,609,115	9,159,007	485,144
Nine months ended March, 1956	34,836,923	21,318,353	85,333,079	4,189,576
Nine months ended March, 1955	34,270,612	18,401,130	81,208,009	4,333,679

COMPANIES REGISTERED

163 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £9,285,001 and 68 Foreign Companies were registered during the nine months ended March, 1956. Registrations for the corresponding period last year comprised 175 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £23,655,500 and 78 Foreign Companies.

BANKRUPTCY

Item	Nine Months ended MARCH					
	1956			1955		
	No.	Liabilities	Assets	No.	Liabilities	Assets
Sequestration Orders	53	96,835	31,895	43	96,378	41,457
Deeds of Assignment (a)	42	212,502	223,327	21	99,728	124,259
Deeds of Arrangement	2	8,732	6,118	1	1,223	274

(a) Includes Compositions and Schemes of Arrangement.

TRANSPORT

The operations of the State Government Railways, open for General and Passenger traffic, were as follows:-

Item	FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
Gross Earnings (a)* £.	986,700	956,000	8,495,800	8,101,000
Working Expenses (a) £.	1,177,542	1,029,782	9,947,340	8,903,797
Train Miles Run No.	649,505	541,202	5,450,724	5,046,692
Motor Bus Miles Run No.	(b) 109,481	(b) 122,274	(c) 921,048	(c) 997,609
<u>Passenger Journeys -</u>				
Train No.	1,307,248	949,765	8,150,941	6,376,302
Motor Bus No.	21,873	25,683	210,604	233,576
<u>Tonnage Carried -</u>				
Paying Goods	261,119	259,828	2,240,732	2,073,054
Livestock	9,097	7,786	101,781	91,730
Departmental (Free Freight)	67,668	72,323	515,349	614,936
Total:	337,884	339,937	2,857,862	2,779,720
<u>Net Ton Mileage of -</u>				
Paying Goods	46,050,901	41,798,663	376,619,145	347,678,203
Livestock	1,155,139	943,017	13,415,723	12,230,442
Departmental (Free Freight)	8,741,162	7,252,852	57,286,349	77,845,513
Total:	55,947,202	49,994,532	447,321,217	437,754,158

(a) Includes operations of the Railway Road Service.

(b) Four weeks ended 4th February.

(c) Period ended 4th February.

* Figures liable to revision.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

(1) NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED (EXCLUDING COMMONWEALTH -OWNED VEHICLES)

Period	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1951	4,263	2,088	51	1,886	7,914	5,730	101	3,192
Year 1952	4,088	2,006	74	1,121	8,068	5,471	112	1,939
Year 1953	4,460	1,869	57	746	8,152	5,015	76	1,239
Year 1954	6,499	2,487	34	736	11,657	6,000	70	1,267
Year 1955	6,852	2,533	18	701	11,591	5,473	59	1,126
<u>1956 -</u>								
January	419	167	-	63	737	365	4	94
February	544	186	3	76	903	442	18	107

(2) MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE (EFFECTIVE REGISTRATIONS) /

Date (as at end of Month)	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
<u>1954 -</u>								
June	47,819	20,400	593	9,692	78,217	58,471	1,117	15,237
December	52,072	21,721	590	9,713	84,868	60,144	1,136	14,886
<u>1955 -</u>								
June	55,720	22,694	555	9,605	90,151	61,946	1,131	14,652
December	59,374	23,666	562	9,342	94,907	62,324	1,141	14,035
<u>1956 -</u>								
January	59,949	23,869	562	9,374	94,286	60,603	1,059	13,304
February	60,256	23,908	564	9,371	95,756	61,958	1,167	13,654

/ Excluding Commonwealth-Owned Vehicles which comprised for February, 1956:-
88 Cars: 783 Wagons, Vans, etc.; 4 Buses and 6 Motor Cycles.

TRADE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA)

Expressed in terms of Australian Currency

Item	IMPORTS				EXPORTS (Including Ships' Stores)			
	FEBRUARY		8 Months ended FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY		8 Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Oversea	3,500	3,651	31,622	31,927	3,759	6,676	46,310	45,710
Interstate	4,817	6,958	54,851	61,417	1,644	2,327	24,202	13,515
Total:	8,317	10,609	86,473	93,344	5,403	9,003	70,512	59,225

BUILDING ACTIVITY

(1) NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED

Period	Dwellings				Factories		Other		Total	
	Owner-Built		By Contractors etc. (a)							
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	55	32	1,316	1,221	52	82	145	192	1,568	1,527
Year 1947	165	109	2,245	2,380	37	64	164	327	2,611	2,880
Year 1948	514	346	2,544	3,041	49	160	268	431	3,375	3,978
Year 1949	825	693	2,485	3,476	57	215	317	657	3,684	5,041
Year 1950	1,313	1,365	3,331	4,727	41	263	428	651	5,113	7,006
Year 1951	1,913	2,835	4,137	6,969	40	459	433	986	6,523	11,249
Year 1952	2,883	5,824	4,946	11,201	63	667	604	2,424	8,496	19,934
Year 1953	2,988	7,219	4,839	12,624	84	817	714	3,657	8,625	24,317
Year 1954	3,127	8,255	5,044	13,491	111	1,544	844	5,015	9,126	28,305
Year 1955	2,788	8,194	6,422	18,091	129	3,405	933	6,900	10,272	36,590
1955 -										
March Qr.	671	1,916	1,272	3,610	32	1,235	185	1,573	2,160	8,334
June Qr.	771	2,209	1,941	5,340	33	851	229	1,260	2,974	9,660
Sept. Qr.	598	1,816	1,465	4,097	36	1,064	235	2,569	2,334	9,546
Dec. Qr.	748	2,253	1,744	5,044	28	255	284	1,498	2,804	9,050

(a) Comprises Government Day Labour as well as Private Contractor Operations and includes Shop Dwellings, Flats and Other Residentials excluded from Table (2) hereunder.

(2) HOUSE CONSTRUCTION
(Includes Owner-Built Homes)

Period	Houses Completed - Classified According to Materials of Outer Walls									
	Brick, Stone, Concrete, etc.		Wood or Mainly Wood		Fibro-Cement or Mainly Fibro-Cement		Other		Total	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	578	640	186	140	373	296	227	172	1,364	1,248
Year 1947	1,114	1,365	257	196	966	862	62	47	2,399	2,470
Year 1948	1,252	1,715	326	249	1,436	1,348	29	22	3,043	3,334
Year 1949	1,449	2,235	228	191	1,571	1,649	42	43	3,290	4,118
Year 1950	1,709	2,882	337	311	2,262	2,572	55	48	4,363	5,813
Year 1951	2,155	4,560	453	525	2,933	4,241	190	218	5,731	9,544
Year 1952	3,006	8,097	745	1,609	3,844	6,678	135	263	7,730	16,647
Year 1953	2,676	8,417	976	2,657	3,966	8,277	24	54	7,642	19,405
Year 1954	2,865	9,767	214	530	4,823	10,833	4	4	7,906	21,134
Year 1955	3,268	11,775	225	621	5,271	12,614	8	17	8,772	25,027
1955 -										
March Qr.	685	2,449	30	70	1,158	2,760	1	1	1,874	5,280
June Qr.	855	2,996	91	257	1,662	3,972	-	-	2,608	7,225
Sept. Qr.	734	2,692	38	103	1,176	2,810	3	6	1,951	5,611
Dec. Qr.	994	3,638	66	191	1,275	3,072	4	10	2,339	6,911

GOLD PRODUCTION

Item	MARCH		3 Months ended MARCH	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
GOLD				
Quantity Fine ozs.	66,944	111,675	177,970	240,800
Value (Aust. Currency)* £.	1,045,993	1,744,928	3,562,016	3,762,503
Dividends reported by Gold Mining Companies £.	-	34,375	221,875	221,875

* Excludes premiums on gold sold for industrial purposes.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of Each Series: Weighted Average of Six Capitals for 1923/27 = 1000)

Centre	Food and Groceries				"C" Series			
	MARCH Quarter		Twelve Months ended MARCH		MARCH Quarter		Twelve Months ended MARCH	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Metropolitan Area	2937	2819	2898	2824	2605	2514	2577	2501
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	3080	2981	3074	2942	2515	2452	2508	2437
Northam	2932	2885	2936	2854	2521	2481	2518	2447
Bunbury	2980	2866	2986	2862	2588	2519	2586	2483
Geraldton	2989	2896	2988	2890	2763	2643	2732	2620
Collie	3005	2914	2999	2896	2390	2326	2381	2314

ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

(Excluding Rural and Private Domestic)

Figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician

Month	1955			1956		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January	135,624	42,794	178,418	136,330	43,687	180,017
February	135,417	43,730	179,147			
March	136,290	44,016	180,306			
April	136,524	43,893	180,417			
May	136,357	43,878	180,235			
June	136,347	43,880	180,227			
July	135,696	43,901	179,597			
August	135,857	43,758	179,615			
September	136,616	43,913	180,529			
October	136,291	43,924	180,215			
November	136,970	44,401	181,371			
December	137,537	44,536	182,073			

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (a)

Month	Factories (Base: 1928/29 (19,799 Employees = 100))				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	214	213	226	233	237
February	216	217	228	235	
March	216	220	231	236	
April	215	221	230	236	
May	214	222	231	236	
June	211	220	230	235	
July	211	221	229	233	
August	212	221	229	235	
September	211	223	228	236	
October	212	224	230	236	
November	213	227	231	238	
December	213	227	232	238	

(a) Figures subsequent to June, 1954, are preliminary.

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STATE BASIC WAGE

Date of Operation	Metropolitan Area		South-West Land Division		Goldfields and Rest of State	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
23/4/56	12. 17. 1	8. 7. 1	12. 13. 11	8. 5. 0	12. 15. 11	8. 6. 4

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - METROPOLITAN AREA
(Generated by W.A. Government Power Stations)

Particulars	MARCH		Nine Months ended MARCH	
	1956	1955	1956	1955
Units Generated (1000 K.W.H.)	45,268	41,619	385,221	340,651
Units Sent Out (1000 K.W.H.)	41,816	37,101	346,482	305,216

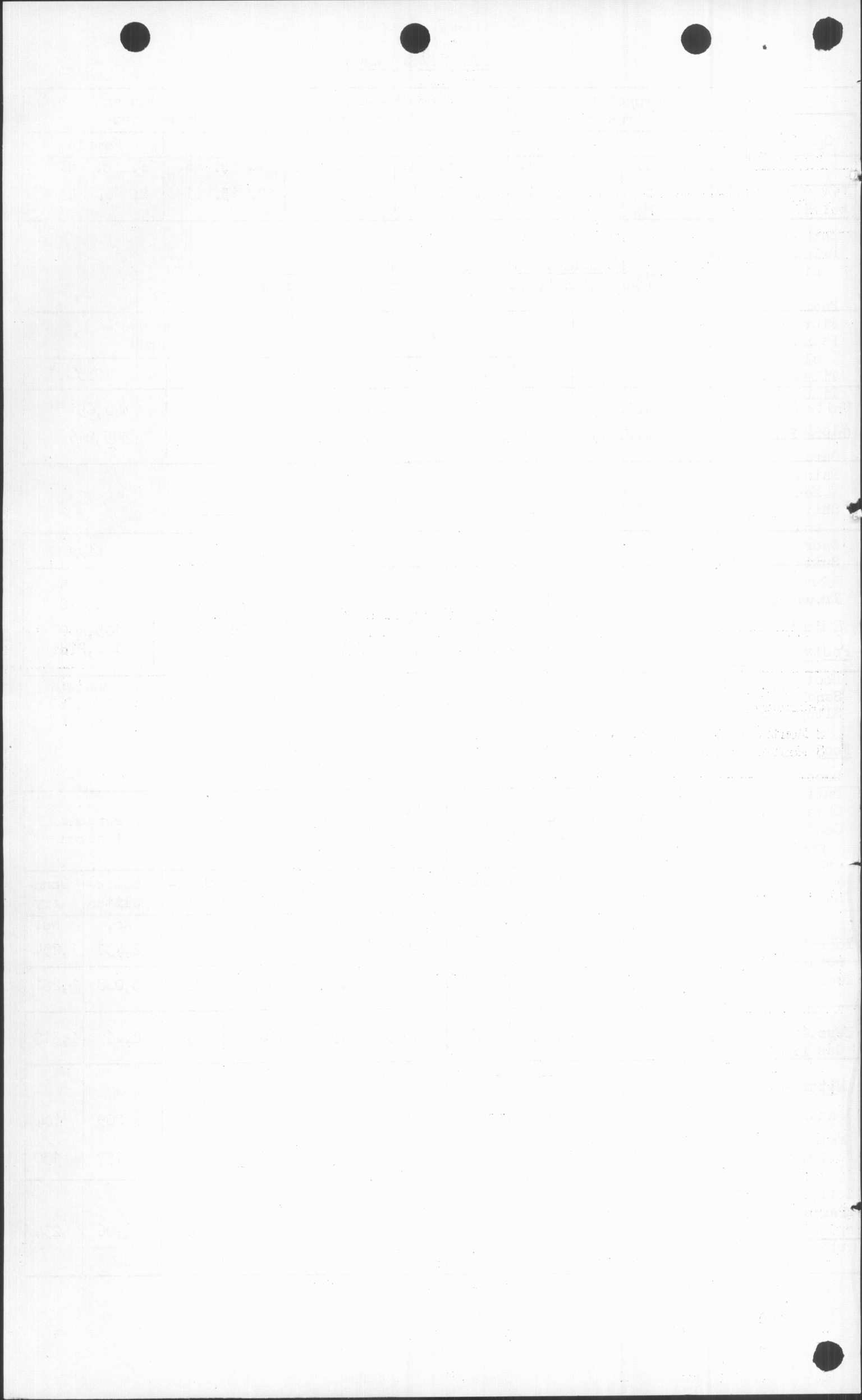
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS IN PRINCIPAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Period	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
February, 1956	8,323	237	64,180	8,615
February, 1955	7,698	253	76,344	13,470
8 Months ended February, 1956	83,492	2,824	978,824	105,460
8 Months ended February, 1955	81,712	3,406	854,759	116,218

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be £10 or less)

Period	Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over £10)		Casualty Accidents		Total Accidents Reported		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1953	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	6,098	2,345	99	93	2,430	1,234
Year 1954	5,072	1,824	2,415	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
Year 1955	5,878	2,029	2,237	921	8,115	2,950	110	89	2,669	1,318
<u>1956 -</u>										
January	396	167	169	67	565	234	6	7	209	104
February	430	139	159	76	589	215	11	5	197	130
Total, 2 Months ended February	826	306	328	143	1,154	449	17	12	406	234



ITEMS OF FACTORY PRODUCTION (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Item	Unit	MARCH		Nine Months ended MARCH	
		1956	1955	1956	1955
<u>Building Material, etc.</u>					
Bath Heaters - solid fuel	no.	455	774	5,293	5,708
Bricks (in terms of standard size) - Cement	'000	253	784	2,946	8,662
- Clay	'000	7,671	9,700	74,479	76,533
Enamels	gal.	3,349	3,254	57,791	29,482
Fibrous Plaster Sheets	'000 sq.yd.	137	259	1,551	1,888
Paints (Ready Mixed) Excluding Water Paints	gal.	14,052	26,578	150,946	174,414
Tiles, roofing - Cement	'000	609	920	6,356	8,155
Timber, Sawn	'000 sup.ft.	(a) 19,668	(a) 17,765	(b) 155,341	(b) 148,407
<u>Clothing</u>					
Cardigans and Pullovers	doz.	1,287	1,239	7,364	7,916
Raincoats (inc. Oilskins)					
Men's and Boys'	no.	365	1,643	4,107	18,581
Shirts (all types) Men's and Boys'	doz.	2,950	3,686	34,085	41,243
Sports Coats - Men's	no.	422	582	5,087	6,827
Suits - Men's - 3 piece	no.	150	176	2,079	3,041
- 2 piece	no.	1,533	1,667	16,586	17,152
Trousers - Men's - Sport	no.	4,620	3,869	35,059	38,815
- Work	no.	12,755	12,477	81,773	110,301
<u>Footwear</u>					
Boots and Shoes (all types)	pair	39,586	37,418	257,225	306,191
Sandals	pair	1,833	3,372	126,501	131,562
Slippers	pair	45,629	29,773	296,903	302,702
<u>Food</u>					
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	545	505	5,776	5,586
Butter	'000 lb.	222	335	14,284	13,742
Cheese	'000 lb.	72	16	1,536	2,123
Confectionery (not chocolate)	'000 lb.	225	277	2,743	2,855
Jams	'000 lb.	56	50	547	482
Margarine	'000 lb.	105	144	880	888
Sauce - Tomato	pint	36,830	39,162	599,391	477,536
<u>Miscellaneous</u>					
Acids - Acetic	cwt.	586	531	4,828	2,814
- Hydrochloric	cwt.	114	150	1,100	1,014
- Nitric	cwt.	32	16	242	144
- Sulphuric	ton	16,221	19,398	136,064	119,921
Cycles, Pedal	no.	560	602	5,459	6,414
Gas Produced	million cu. ft.	114	109	1,088	1,079
Mattresses - Inner Spring	no.	1,980	2,117	17,048	16,366
- Woven Wire	no.	1,256	1,854	22,314	25,155
- Soft Filled	no.	3,720	4,205	31,119	31,850
Motor Vehicle Bodies -					
Truck Trays	no.	54	94	568	824
Utilities (all types)	no.	Nil	28	156	270
Trailers (all types)	no.	10	26	178	169
Perambulators	no.	45	69	529	591

(a) February figures. March not available.

(b) Eight months ended February.

